

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SAL-01 COME-00 EB-07

CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

STR-04 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /083 W

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R 271900Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6005

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01443

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IC, NATO, PFOR, EFIS

SUBJECT: FRG BUNDESTAG DEPUTY VOICES CONCERN ABOUT
ICELAND

REFS: A. BONN 1279 (NOTAL); B. BONN 18792 NOV. 18, 1975
NOTAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: BUNDESTAG DEPUTY HORST GRUNENBERG (SPD, BREMERHAVEN) HAS EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF THE DESIRE BY A FEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HERE THAT THE U.S. LEAN MORE HEAVILY ON THE BRITISH TO REACH A FISHING AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND, SO AS TO AVOID FURTHER DAMAGE TO NATO UNITY. GRUNENBERG ALSO VOICED CONCERN AT INCREASING USSR INFLUENCE IN ICELAND. END OF SUMMARY.

1. GRUNENBERG HAS OF LATE ASSUMED INCREASING INTEREST IN ICELANDIC AFFAIRS, PARTIALLY THE RESULT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CONNECTIONS IN THAT COUNTRY AND PARTIALLY THE RESULT OF THE SHARED INTEREST THAT MANY OF HIS
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BREMERHAVEN SEAPORT CONSTITUENTS HAVE IN INTERNATIONAL FISHING AGREEMENTS. HIS JULY 1-5, 1975 TRIP TO ICELAND,

IN THE COMPANY OF FELLOW BUNDESTAG DEPUTY KARL-HEINZ SAKOWSKI, HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO ICELAND OF MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI (ALSO AN SPD DEPUTY) FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THEN RESULTED IN THE NOVEMBER SETTLEMENT OF THE ICELANDIC-FRG DISPUTE. GRUNENBERG HAS PASSED TO US A COPY OF THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT HE MADE TO THE SPD FRAKTION OF HIS VISIT, WHICH PRESENTS A SYMPATHETIC VIEW OF THE ICELANDIC ZONAL WATER CLAIMS AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE FRG BEAR IN MIND THE UNIQUE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES ON THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT FAVORABLE TO THEIR CLAIMS. GRUNENBERG ALSO HAS AUTHORED A LENGTHY ARTICLE ON THE ICELANDIC FISHING CONFLICT IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE GERMAN MARITIME JOURNAL "SCHIFFFAHRT INTERNATIONAL", WHICH PROJECTS A SIMILAR UNDERSTANDING VIEW OF THE ICELANDIC ARGUMENTS.

2. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION GRUNENBERG HAD WITH WISCHNEWSKI BEFORE THE PRESENT WILSON-HALLGRIMSSON TALKS, WISCHNEWSKI COMPLAINED TO HIM THAT THE UK AUTHORITIES WERE BEHAVING IN AN UNFORTUNATE MANNER IN THE WAY THEY WERE ACTING AGAINST THE ICELANDERS. ACCORDING TO GRUNENBERG, WISCHNEWSKI SAID HE REGRETTED THE UK USE OF FRIGATES OFF THE ICELANDIC COAST AND WONDERED WHETHER THE U.S. COULD NOT IN SOME WAY PUT PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH TO DESIST FROM SUCH DANGEROUS ACTIVITY. (GRUNENBERG MAINTAINED THAT BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE RHINE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND OTHER SENSITIVITIES, WISCHNEWSKI AND HE FELT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR THE WEST GERMANS TO TAKE SUCH A STEP ON THEIR OWN.)

3. GRUNENBERG CLAIMED THAT THE ICELANDIC PROBLEM WAS ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING A SERIOUS AND UNSTABLE SITUATION THAT GREATLY FRIGHTENED HIM. NATO COULD VERY WELL DO WITHOUT A CUBA IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, HE STATED, AND THE U.S. SHOULD NOT HAVE TO VACATE KEFLAVIK BECAUSE OF LONDON'S STUBBORNNESS.

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4. AT THE SAME TIME THE USSR HOLD OVER THE ICELANDERS IS INCREASING WITH EACH DAY, GRUNENBERG ADDED. HERE HE STRESSED THE ROLE THAT ICELAND COMMUNIST LEADER LUDVIK JOSEFSSON, WHEN HE WAS MINISTER OF COMMERCE, PLAYED IN COMMITTING ICELAND TO A TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WHEREBY LARGE AMOUNTS OF FISH AT DECLINING WORLD PRICES ARE EXCHANGED FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AT EVER INCREASING WORLD COSTS. AS A RESULT, GRUNENBERG NOTED, THE ICELANDERS ARE FACED WITH A VERY UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE VIS-A-VIS MOSCOW.

GRUNENBERG ADDED THAT THE FACT THAT THE USSR HAS 120 PERSONNEL IN ITS EMBASSY IN REYKJAVIK, TEN TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER EMBASSY, HAS TO GIVE ADDED CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

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5. GRUNENBERG URGED THAT ICELAND NOT BE ACCORDED BACK BURNER STATUS IN WASHINGTON AND OTHER NATO CAPITALS. HE WELCOMED THE STEPS THAT NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS HAS ACHIEVED IN HIS NEGOTIATING EFFORTS. HE CALLED FOR ADDED PERSONAL INTEREST BY U.S. AND OTHER NATO LEADERS IN ICELAND. PERSONAL DIPLOMACY BEING IN HIS OPINION A KEY FACTOR IN THAT COUNTRY WHICH CONSIDERS ITSELF THE CENTER OF THE WORLD ("NABEL DER WELT"). IN PARTICULAR HE URGED THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED TO AID THIS "IMPORTANT STRATEGIC NATION IN ITS PRESENT DISASTROUS (COMPARATIVELY) INTERNATIONAL

FISCAL DEFICITS."

COMMENT: GRUNENBERG AND A FEW OF HIS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATES HAVE SEIZED UPON TWO INTERNATIONAL THEMES: ICELAND AND THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL), WHICH IN THEIR OPINION ARE NOT RECEIVING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION BY
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FRG AUTHORITIES. THEIR CONCERN MAY BE VIEWED AS AN ASSET BY SECTIONS OF THE SPD LEADERSHIP, SINCE IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON A PROBLEM SITUATION WITHOUT INVOLVING THE FRG GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO DETERMINE WHETHER GRUNENBERG'S CONCERN AND URGING PARALLEL THE DESIRES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. SEE REF. B FOR AN EARLIER READING OF FRG FOREIGN OFFICE REACTION TO THE UK-ICELANDIC DISPUTE, WHICH WAS NOT AS PRONOUNCEDLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE ICELANDERS AS GRUNENBERG'S REACTION.
HILLENBRAND

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